

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

2 - JAN 17
COPY 1957

VOL. IX, NO 21

December 8, 1956

CONCERTED EFFORT ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES DEMANDED BY AUSTRIA. From 1945 up to the time when events in Hungary caused a new influx of refugees, 800,000 refugees had crossed the Austrian borders. While a large number could be settled outside the country, 190,000 of them are still living in Austria, 36,000 of whom are still being housed in camps.

Recent developments in Hungary brought more than 100,000 new refugees. Although 30,000 of these have been able to leave the country for new destinations in Europe or overseas, the remainder is still in Austria, with more arriving every night in a state of deprivation and exhaustion. They have to be cared for immediately, to be fed and clothed.

The Austrian Federal Government, in cooperation with everyone willing to help, is undertaking all possible efforts to accomodate these unfortunate people as quickly as possible. But, in spite of desperate efforts on the part of the Austrian authorities and the Austrian people to cope with this problem, Austria depends on generous and immediate help from other countries. Transit camps and reception centers, holiday homes and empty hotels, all available private housing facilities and even schools are filled to capacity.

In order to secure at least provisional shelter for thousands of refugees, it seems indispensable that European countries, as a matter of extreme urgency, send trains directly to the Austro-Hungarian border to assure immediate transportation abroad. This measure should be implemented without bureaucratic formalities. It should be borne in mind that Austria, on her part, cannot discriminate at her borders.

(Continued on page 2)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL APPEALS FOR AID ON BEHALF OF HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA. U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, in an urgent appeal for more funds in aid of Hungarian refugees, drew the members' attention to the resolution by the General Assembly on November 21, when the assembly first agreed on measures to deal with the situation that had developed with regard to the influx of refugees into Austria. The Secretary noted in this context that a further allocation of at least 10 million dollars had become an immediate necessity. Mr. Hammarskjold's appeal was also directed to the governments of West Germany, Japan, South Korea, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, the Vatican and South Vietnam, which are not represented in the U.N.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS BORDER VIOLATION.

On November 24, Chancellor Julius Raab invited the Soviet Ambassador to Austria, Mr. Lapin, to the Federal Chancellery and informed him that the Federal Government is compelled to register a strong protest over the border incident near Rechnitz on Friday, November 23. The Chancellor emphasized that the Federal Government must protest vigorously against the violation of sovereign Austrian territory by members of the Soviet Army, inasmuch as the Austrian border is clearly demarcated at the point involved. Herr Raab declared that the Austrian Government regrets that the episode resulted in the loss of a human life but that he felt it necessary to point out that the sole reason for the incident was the crossing of the Austrian frontier by Soviet soldiers.

The Chancellor stated that heretofore the behavior of Soviet troops on the Austrian-Hungarian border has shown that command units of the Soviet Army are respecting the Austrian border, an attitude which the Austrian Government has noted with satisfaction.

The Austrian statesman expressed the hope that the Rechnitz episode would induce the Soviet military authorities to take measures designed to ensure continued respect for the Austrian frontier even by individual Soviet soldiers. The Chancellor also handed a written copy of the Austrian protest to the Soviet envoy.

THE RECHNITZ EPISODE. The Austrian Ministry of the Interior has issued the following official version of the border incident at Rechnitz: On Friday, November 23, at about 3 P.M., 30 Hungarian refugees who had already crossed the Austrian frontier and were on Austrian territory were pursued and shot at by Soviet soldiers. Among the group of refugees was a young woman who was pursued over a mile inside Austrian territory by a Soviet soldier who finally caught up with her and attempted to drag her back toward the Hungarian border. Two Austrian farmers succeeded in freeing the girl from the soldier and the latter then fled back to Hungarian territory. At the same time, two other Soviet soldiers crossed the Boccuk-Rechnitz highway and attempted to block the path of the refugees.

Officials at the Rechnitz customs station notified the Gendarmerie station and then proceeded along the road toward Rechnitz on the run. About 100 yards from the customs station, they encountered the two Soviet soldiers who took aim at them with their revolvers. The customs guards then aimed with their own weapons, at which juncture reinforce-

ments from Rechnitz arrived on the scene in a truck and the two Soviet soldiers were disarmed and transported in the direction of Rechnitz. On the way, one of the two soldiers tore himself loose and attempted to flee toward the Hungarian border. After giving prior warning, one of the Gendarmes fired at the fleeing soldier, who collapsed after being wounded in the stomach. He was immediately brought to the Oberwart hospital by truck and died there as he was being admitted.

Attention was drawn by the Ministry to the fact that the point on the Austrian border where the incident took place is clearly demarcated.

AUSTRIAN EFFORT ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES LAUDED BY U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. At the 11th session of the General Assembly, a resolution sponsored by 12 nations (Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the U.S.) lauded Austrian efforts on behalf of refugees from Hungary and proposed further measures, based on a concerted effort by member states, to be taken by the High Commissioner for Refugees whose report was before the committee. The text of the revised draft resolution issued on November 29 read in part: "The General Assembly:

"Expresses its appreciation to the Austrian Government for the part it has played in receiving and assisting the refugees who have entered its territory,

"Expresses its appreciation of the efforts of the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees to implement the programme for permanent solutions of the existing refugee problem and to deal with the emergency situation created by the problem of Hungarian refugees,

"Requests the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to effect solutions in accordance with the Statute of his Office and the UNREF programme, under due safeguards in accordance with his responsibility under the said Statute to provide international protection to refugees within his mandate,

"Requests the High Commissioner in consultation with the Secretary-General and with the Governments concerned to develop a comprehensive assessment of the needs, both material and financial, of the Hungarian refugees to be submitted to the UNREF Executive Committee for its approval at the earliest possible date.

"Expresses grave concern at the short-fall in the Governmental contributions to the United Nations Refugee Fund established at \$16 million,

"Urges all States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies to give early and serious consideration to making contributions to the United Nations Refugee Fund in order that the target for 1956 and 1957 may be reached and the High Commissioner enabled fully to implement the programme planned under that Fund,

"Requests the United Nations High Commissioner to study with the UNREF Executive Committee the appropriate means to ensure the full implementation of the UNREF programme."



Mobile units of the new Austrian Army have taken up stations along the Hungarian frontier. Refugees crossing into Austria are at once given full protection.

NEUTRALITY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE. Discussing problems of neutrality and national defense, Defense Undersecretary Stephani declared recently that such neutrality must be backed up by an effective national defense plan. He indicated that such a plan must coordinate all military and civil defense measures and be based on the following principles: that the defense of the Republic and especially -- according to a provision of the Constitution -- the defense of its borders, is a concern of the entire nation; that Austria must organize a territorial defense which can be sensibly coordinated with mobile defense by the Federal Army; and that protection, including protection from air attack, must be provided for the civilian population.

The Undersecretary reported that a defense plan is now being prepared by the Ministry of Defense. The plan in question will be submitted first for consideration by the National Defense Council, after which it will be laid before the Government for approval. It will then be made public.

DISARMING OF HUNGARIAN COMBATANTS PROCEEDS SMOOTHLY. In a communication relating to interned persons, the Austrian Ministry of Defense reports that, under existing international law, Austria is obliged to disarm and intern members of foreign armies and combatants who cross the Austrian border. The report indicates that this task has been taken over by the Austrian Federal Army which, under the Constitution and the Defense Law, has the function of protecting the border. The persons concerned were disarmed as soon as they crossed the border and transferred under guard to prearranged assembly centers. According to the Ministry's statement, no difficulties have been encountered to date in this procedure. The interned soldiers were given temporary shelter at Klosterneuburg near Vienna and then transferred to their ultimate destination, the internment camp at Siezenheim.

By agreement with the Foreign Affairs Office of the Federal Chancellery, interviews with the internees and feature stories about them have been prohibited. Any information on the subject comes exclusively under the jurisdiction of the camp commanders.

The Defense Ministry reports further that, likewise in accordance with international law, the provisions of the Military Emoluments Law relative to daily pay and supplements according to rank are being applied to the interned soldiers. Accordingly, every internee receives the same pay as an Austrian soldier. They also receive free food on the basis of the provisions law which is in effect for the Austrian Army. Medical services are provided by Army physicians and the cost of any hospitalization is borne by the Army administration.

AUSTRIAN STAND ON SOUTH TYROL. In a recent policy statement on the South Tyrol, State Secretary Gschnitzer made it clear that the Austrian Government still considers that Italy is not fully implementing the Paris Agreement. Austria has recently submitted detailed memoranda to Italy noting the points of friction and endeavoring to make constructive proposals for their settlement. Thus Italy has been offered an opportunity to cooperate with Austria on a basis of mutual trust. Commenting on the international situation, Dr. Gschnitzer said that the mainspring of the present crisis is the movement towards freedom and national independence which is currently asserting itself with renewed vigor. Even in those areas where recourse to extreme measures had been avoided, serious problems remain that cannot be resolved by makeshift arrangements. Noting that Italian statesmen had laid great stress on the Brenner frontier question, the Secretary said that even the most well-intentioned declarations in favor of European unity are quite worthless when divisive factors are emphasized rather than tackled. The Paris Agreement, Dr. Gschnitzer concluded, is a perfect example of truly European spirit, and it would be a great pity if the sentiments expressed therein were dissipated in a local conflict that reflects no credit on the European cause.

TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK IN VIENNA. During a recent visit to Vienna, the president of the World Bank, Eugene Black, held a series of exploratory discussions with top financial experts of the Austrian government and with leading business men. The question of World Bank loans to Austria has been aired, and it was agreed by both sides that, as a matter of principle, private industry should receive priority if and when the question of eligibility is brought up. According to Mr. Black, it is the World Bank's policy to grant loans to private enterprises after having come to a broad agreement with the official representatives of the country concerned. There are certain exceptions, however, notably in the field of public utilities, power plants and communication systems under municipal or state control.

Following the preliminary talks on the highest level, further discussions will be held in Vienna with the purpose of working out detailed agreements on World Bank loans to expanding enterprises. As soon as a basic understanding will have been reached on the outlines of procedure, and each individual case will be judged on its merits.

AUSTRIA - U.S. BOND AGREEMENT SIGNED. Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Figl and Acting Secretary of State Herbert Hoover, Jr. have signed an agreement that will reestablish the validity of Austrian bonds in default since the war. Having put his signature to the document in Washington on November 21, Mr. Hoover said that the agreement "would assist Austria in fully restoring its position in the world's financial community; it will also help to create confidence in international financial obligations." In reply to Mr. Hoover, the Austrian Foreign Minister expressed his satisfaction at the results obtained. "I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by the Acting Secretary," Mr. Figl said, "namely, that a wider significance attaches to the accord we have just signed. It is also a further step on the difficult path of Austria's post-war recovery, in which American assistance has played an important part...Austria has now been restored to a position of confidence among nations."

Subject to the agreement will be Austria's eight dollar bond issues which had been floated before the second world war. Since these bonds have been in default, Austria has made persistent efforts to restore their negotiability. A series of agreements has been worked out, the last of which is the one now signed with the U.S. As soon as the Austro-American accord is ratified by Congress and the Austrian parliament, formal offers of debt settlements will be made by the Austrian Government as well as by provincial, municipal and private Austrian debtors. It has been officially confirmed that bonds affected by the validation procedure now pending total about 12 million dollars.

Efforts for Refugees (Continued from page 1)

Another step to accommodate the refugees, which would be of great help, would be the setting up of reception centers and transit camps in other European countries, where further arrangements could be initiated. This would facilitate the organizational task taken on by the Austrian authorities.

The urgent need for such action is the more apparent in the light of the fact that this new influx of refugees comes in addition to the maintenance of, and care for, previous refugees, who, as far as they have not yet been absorbed by the Austrian economy, have to be supported. At the present time there exist 63 camps in Austria which are operated by the Federal Government and 7 large reception centers. It may be noted in tribute to the authorities, as well as to the private organizations responsible for the maintenance of these camps, that so far not one case of contagious disease has occurred. All the refugees are in good health.

Nevertheless, it should be understood that this burden, which Austria is willingly taking upon herself, is about to exceed the country's capacity. By the end of November, Austria had already spent the equivalent of 5 million dollars for refugees in a matter of four weeks. Maintaining the present number of refugees for a period of 6 months would cost another 30 million dollars.

These facts, it is sincerely hoped, will give evidence to the effect that the problem of refugees - truly an international problem - can only be solved with the cooperation of all concerned. Help, in order to be effective, must be immediate.

AN OEEC SURVEY OF THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY. The OEEC (Organization for European Economic Cooperation), whose headquarters are in Paris, has recently published a survey of the Austrian economy. The year 1955 and the first 6 months of 1956 were the subject of this study.

On recent developments, the survey contains the following points:

The real gross national product, which had increased by 9.4 per cent in 1954, rose by 10.5% in 1955. Thereafter a slowdown in the rate of growth was noted.

Increased production is mainly due to an increase in per capita output, coupled with a full exploitation of existing capacity. A rise of fixed investment has also been noted in this context. During 1955, the increase of plant capacity was substantial by any standard; moreover, it was largely centered in those sectors of the economy which had previously experienced difficulty in meeting a growing demand notably in the metal processing industries. Agricultural production rose by 4.5%, and a record crop was harvested, which reduced imports during the first half of 1956 to an insignificant level. Forestry products continued to reflect a sharp upward trend in 1955 but fell off in the first half of 1956.

Changes in the pattern of demand were reflected by a sharp rise of exports beginning in 1953. The production level of basic industries tended to level off somewhat, partly as a result of a tighter money policy adopted by the Finance Ministry. Government building activity, too, has been reduced. The demand for consumer goods, on the other hand, has been steadily increasing since 1955. A particularly rapid growth was noted in the textile industry. Consumer goods industries have, on the whole, been able to meet increased demands without difficulties.

A better balance has been achieved in the labor market, the survey notes, although seasonable unemployment is still an important problem. Whereas unemployment had fallen off to 3% of the total labor force by the summer of 1956, it amounted to nearly 10% in the first two months of this year.

The movement of wages and prices is shown in the table given below:

	June 1954	June 1955	Sept. 1955	Dec. 1955	Mar. 1956	June 1956
Import prices	100	96	95	96	99	99
Wholesale prices of manufactured goods	100	109	110	110	111	110
Wholesale prices of food and beverages	100	105	103	97	101	104
Building costs	100	103	103	107	107	112
Cost of living	100	100	101	104	109	104
Hourly wage rates	100	104	103	106	108	108

It will be noted that both wages and prices have steadily risen. Wage increases, however, have only rarely outstripped the rise of industrial productivity. As a result, the building trade has become one of the few exceptions where higher wages have led to a sharp increase in building costs.

However, fiscal policy has, not been used as an anti-cyclical weapon. The budget showed a surplus of 500 million Austrian schillings in 1954 and a deficit of 1 billion in 1955. The Central Bank raised its discount rate from 3½% to 4½%

in May and to 5% in November 1955. Bank loans now carry a rate of interest from 9 to 10½%. A slowing down in the expansion of short-term credit took place between June 1955 and June 1956. Long-term credit has also been limited.

The economic effects of the State Treaty were less adverse than expected. The volume of deliveries to the Soviet Union is no greater than was the quantity of goods taken abroad during the Russian occupation. An increase in tourist expenditures has offset the loss of foreign currency resulting from the withdrawal of the occupation forces. Rapid progress is being made in the areas previously under Russian occupation, which have, not yet caught up however, with the Western provinces.

The structure of foreign trade has changed somewhat, partly because a 8% dollar-liberalization has been introduced, and partly because of the effects of the State Treaty. The share of OEEC countries in Austria's total imports fell from 79% in 1954 to 72% during the first half of 1956, while imports from the dollar area increased during the same period from 6 to 13% of the total. The increased share of Eastern Europe in Austria's exports (from 11% to 13%) is due to deliveries to Russia under the State Treaty.

In conclusion, the survey states that Austria has overcome the economic difficulties which threatened in 1954. Inflationary pressure has been checked and the burdens imposed by the State Treaty have proved not too heavy for the Austrian economy to sustain. The Austrian balance of payments is shown in the following table.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

	1954 I	1954 II	1955 I	1955 II	1956 I
Imports	275	351	398	451	442
Exports	290	320	323	387	426
Balance of Trade	+15	-31	-75	-64	-16
Invisibles	+37	+47	+15	+6	+6
of which: tourism	(+24)	(+40)	(+21)	(+41)	(+36)
Balance on current account	+52	+16	-60	-58	-10
Net capital movements	+20	-5	+36	+40	+41
Foreign aid	+13	+7	+1	+1	-
Redemption deliveries under the State Treaty	-	-	-	-14	-26
Change of reserves	+85	+18	-23	-31	+5

Investment finance is one of the greatest problems still facing Austria. Although private savings are increasing, the capital market remains very weak. The growth of competition and general development of the Austrian Economy could also be greatly effected by the use made of the profits of the nationalized industries. It is expected that a new law, now being formulated and soon to be submitted for parliamentary approval, will make provisions for those profits to be absorbed into the Federal budget instead of being pooled by the nationalized industries for their own exclusive use.

In full agreement with recent Austrian fiscal policy, it is also noted that the exceedingly liberal import policy adopted by the Government appears to be an invaluable weapon of economic policy, especially with two aims in view, namely, to check inflationary trends, and to create added incentives for an increasingly competitive economy.

FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT IN OCTOBER. As a result of the sharp, 22-per cent increase in Austrian imports during October, the foreign trade balance for the month showed a deficit of 380 million schillings (the Austrian schilling is quoted at approximately 25 to the dollar - Ed.).

According to provisional foreign trade figures published for October, imports amounted to 964,500 tons of merchandise, representing a value of 2,424 million schillings, as compared with 917,500 tons in September for a value of 1,979 million schillings.

In terms of weight, exports were lower in October (600,900 tons) than in September (607,100 tons), but the value of the October exports (2,044 million schillings) was somewhat higher than those of September (1,987 million).

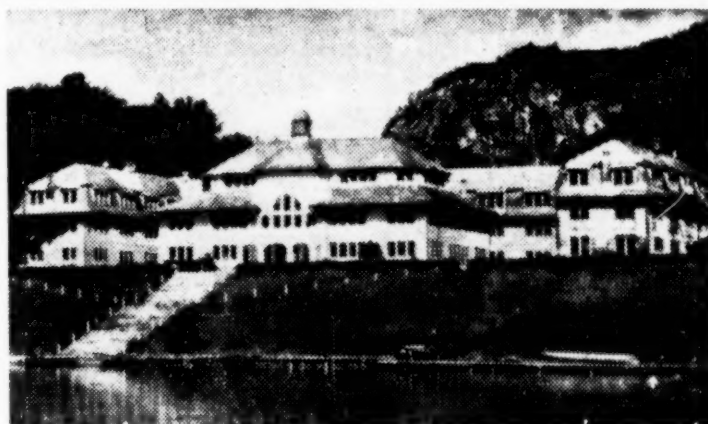
FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PAYMENTS BALANCE.

During the third quarter of 1956, Austria's balance of payments registered a surprisingly favorable development. While the balance of trade for September showed a modest surplus -- the first for a considerable time -- of 13 million schillings (the Austrian schilling is currently quoted at approximately 25 to the dollar - Ed.), in July there was a deficit of 521 million schillings and in August another of 145 million.

The total deficit for the quarter was, therefore, 653 million schillings. However, revenue from the tourist trade was sufficient not only to offset this deficit but also to meet the extensive foreign-currency requirements of Austrians travelling abroad. Foreign exchange acquired as a result of tourist activity represented a value of 700 million schillings in July, 600 million in August and 300 million in September. There were also invisible sources of foreign exchange, such as transit freight. These developments are reflected in the report of the National Bank showing an increase in foreign currency reserve in the value of 1,290 million schillings.

According to the National Bank report of October 31, banknote circulation (plus Giro liabilities) slightly exceeded the 16-billion mark for the first time. However, inasmuch as the gold reserve has remained constant at 1,744 million since the beginning of the year and since the foreign currency reserve is well over 9 billion schillings, gold and foreign-exchange coverage represented a respectable 67.5 per cent against 60 per cent on June 30, 1956 and 58.8 per cent on December 31, 1953.

A UNIVERSITY TRANSPLANTED. When their border town was occupied by Soviet troops, the Hungarian teachers and students of Sopron University, almost to a man, crossed into Austria. The Austrian Minister of Education, Heinrich Drimmel, confronted with the startling problem of what to do with some 500 students and teachers eager to reestablish themselves as an educational unit, acted with exemplary speed and decisiveness. Within hours, a new home had been found (see picture), and within days teachers and students were back to work in their improvised classrooms. A little time will be needed to consider the formal recognition of the university's certificates and diplomas under Austrian law, but in the meantime the German language has been added to the curriculum.



The new quarters of the University of Sopron at St. Wolfgang Lake.

REFUGEE CHILDREN REMEMBER THE HORRORS OF WAR.

For the Hungarian refugee children who have found a haven in Viennese homes the war is over. Their memories, however, remain. Given pencil and paper, they will - with few exceptions - recall tanks firing, houses burning, and sudden death in the streets. Wherever they will go from there - and some will go as far as America and Australia -- they will not forget the horrors of war.



Two drawings of a 12-year old: street fighting at Lenin Blvd. and tank attack at Kilian Barracks.

EFFECTS OF OIL SHORTAGE FELT IN AUSTRIA. The oil shortage in most European countries which has been caused by recent developments in the Middle East has also affected the Austrian economy. Heating oil, where the pinch has been felt for some time past, is a case in point. Austria's domestic production of heating oil is limited. This is due to reparation deliveries of crude oil to the Soviet Union. In fact, Austria must import heating oil from various foreign countries. However, shipments are currently only being received from Italy; consignments scheduled for delivery from Yugoslavia and Rumania via the Danube are still being detained at the Hungarian frontier.

Under her State Treaty obligations, Austria has to ship an annual volume of 1,200,000 tons of crude oil to the Soviet Union. Normally part of these deliveries is forwarded to Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Direct deliveries to the Soviet Union continue despite the events in Hungary, while consignments to Hungary itself have been stopped.

Austria's mineral oil supply is not quite as substantial as is frequently assumed. The above-mentioned deliveries to the Soviet Union are a burden to the government-sponsored company now administering the oil industries and installations transferred to Austria under the State Treaty. The annual value of these deliveries amounts to 18 million dollars, or approximately one million tons of crude oil delivered free of charge. The remaining 200,000 tons of crude oil which make up the total of 1.2 million tons, represent part of Austria's annual deliveries of goods to the Soviet Union under additional State Treaty obligations which provide for the shipment of commodities worth 25 million dollars annually until 1961. To cover the cost of the 200,000 tons of crude oil, the Federal budget includes an expenditure of 650 million schillings. The Austrian Mineral Oil Administration is also charged with a contribution of 300 million schillings earmarked as a milk subsidy.

Consideration must also be given the fact that, according to the findings of the Federal Institute of Geology, the tapped reserves of crude oil estimated at 58.56 million tons fall considerably short of the 76.6 million tons given as the figure by the Soviet Mineral Oil Administration immediately before transferring the oilfields to Austria.

It has now been calculated that no further demands can be made upon the Oil Administration for the next few years so that the large investments necessary to maintain production at its present level can be financed.

Motor traffic, it has been authoritatively stated, is not affected so far, nor is it expected that such will be the case in the foreseeable future. Gas rationing or similar measures are not being contemplated.

AUSTRIAN CEMENT PRODUCTION SOARS. Austria is now the eighth largest producer of cement among the OEEC countries. Her cement production has risen 44% over the annual 1950 level and it recently hit the 2 million ton mark. West Germany is the biggest producer in terms of total output, followed by Great Britain, Italy, France, Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland. The over-all production increase since 1950 is 57.7%.

EUROPEAN ELECTRICITY POOL EXPANDING. A recent report of the U.C.P.T.E., the European electricity pool harnessing the resources of Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Western Germany, draws attention to Europe's growing dependence on electric power and, as a result thereof, to the importance of an integrated European fuel and power economy. Between 1950 and 1955, the volume of electric power pooled by the 8 member-countries of the U.C.P.T.E. has grown from 2783 million KWH to 5030 million KWH.

TEXTILE EXPORTS UP. Calculated in Austrian schillings, textile exports are expected to hit the 2 billion-mark (about 80 million dollars) this year. According to expert forecasts, the present trend should continue into 1957 and bring Austrian manufacturers another record yield. The rate of fixed investments being generally low, the continuous need for expansion and replacement of outdated equipment is the only shadow in an otherwise bright picture. So far, however, export figures have shown that Austria's textile industry is keeping abreast of international competition.

AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN 1957 INTERNATIONAL FAIRS. Following a series of successful industrial and trade exhibitions in four continents, the Chamber of Commerce has now decided on Austrian participation in international fairs on an even wider scale. Next year's schedule will include Paris and Stockholm; Frankfurt, Hannover, Munich and Nuremberg in Western Germany; Leipzig in Eastern Germany; Utrecht in the Netherlands; Zagreb in Yugoslavia; Plovdiv in Bulgaria; Saloniki in Greece; Milan and Trieste in Italy; Bogota, Colombia; Damascus, the Syrian capital; and Johannesburg, South Africa.

TOURIST TRAFFIC UNIMPAIRED BY POLITICAL SITUATION. Regardless of the uncertainties of the international situation, Austria's tourist industry is preparing for a busy winter season. According to a recent report, advance bookings so far exceed last year's by a wide margin. The optimism shown by Austria's prospective visitors is fully reciprocated by the Austrians themselves: Many will celebrate Christmas -- or the New Year -- in Italy, France and other European countries. Outgoing traffic, however, will in no way match the flow of tourists into Austria. Twenty-two special trains will cross the Arlberg, Austria's western approach, in the Christmas week alone. Italians, Belgians, Scandinavians and notably, Americans show no concern that circumstances beyond their control might upset their plans. Frenchmen and Britishers, on the other hand, are worried about their gas rationing; movement by private car will therefore be slightly impaired. However, railroad bookings are mounting steadily in volume and are expected to hit an all time high. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the over-all picture, it is noted by experts, is the insignificant number of cancellations, which are, if anything, below the figures of the preceding years.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

LAST CEREMONY OF MOZART YEAR TO RECALL COMPOSER'S FINAL HOURS.

Mozart died on December 5, 1791, at about one o'clock in the morning, and was thereafter buried in a pauper's grave at St. the Marx cemetery in Vienna. It is this, perhaps the most poignant event in musical history, which will be remembered at the conclusion of the Mozart Year. On the evening of December 4th, the Vienna State Opera will perform the Magic Flute under the baton of Rudolf Moralt. After the performance, a motorcade will leave for the cemetery -- the exact location of Mozart's grave is no longer known -- where the Mayor of Vienna will address the gathering the first hour of December 5th.

DOCUMENTARY FILM ON MOZART COMPLETED. Work has now been completed on a 3000-ft. documentary film about the life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, produced under the sponsorship of the Austrian Ministry of Education. Along with buildings in Vienna which were associated with the composer and which are still in existence, the film shows a large number of original Mozart manuscripts, extracts from diaries and other pertinent documents. On the basis of contemporary paintings and prints, it presents a picture of the world in Mozart's day. The events in the composers life are presented in chronological sequence. The Mozart compositions used as background music are likewise in chronological order and are performed by the Camerata Academica of the Salzburg Mozarteum, with Isolde Ahlgrimm as soloist.

WILLIAM WARFIELD AGAIN WINS ACCLAIM IN VIENNA.

William Warfield, well remembered for his performance as Porgy in the Gershwin opera that won an enthusiastic reception three years ago, renewed his acquaintance with the Viennese in a recent guest appearance at the Musikvereinsaal. His program included arias and lieder by Monteverdi, Handel and Schubert. Mr. Warfield, whose Schubert lieder in excellent German particularly impressed his audience, found his popularity undiminished and the critics as appreciative as ever.

"AFTER DINNER OPERA COMPANY" IN VIENNA. The "After Dinner Opera Company," an American chamber opera ensemble made up of three singers, two pianists and a number of technicians, recently made a successful appearance in the Theatersaal in der Josefgasse in Vienna's 8th District. The works performed were three short operas written by contemporary composers primarily for performance on U.S. university stages, on television or on the radio. The production was limited to episodes which, in point of structure and manner of execution, recall the one-act and three-minute plays of Thornton Wilder. The works performed were "In a Garden," with words by Gertrude Stein and music by M. Kupfermann, a Grimm fairy tale and a dramatized American ballad.

"WONDERFUL TOWN" GETS A MIXED RECEPTION IN VIENNA. The European premier of "Wonderful Town" failed to convince the Viennese audience. Lavishly produced by Heinz Rosen, whose "Kiss me, Kate" had been an unqualified success, the musical was performed by a brilliant and impressive cast which included the Americans Olive Moorefield, Bruce Low, Huberth Dillworth, and Dick Price and Vienna's own Sig Arno. The over-all reception was nevertheless rather favorable and there was no sign of a break in the newly-formed ranks of musical fans.

PRICE OFFERED FOR "AUSTRIAN MUSICAL." Although the growing taste for musicals in Austria was first viewed with skepticism, their undisputed success with the public has considerably mellowed their critics. The musical, it is now agreed, has come to stay. What is more, it is going to be converted into something specifically Viennese. The Austrian Musical is about to be born, an event due to occur as soon as somebody picks up the 100,000 schillings (about 4,000 dollars) offered by the Federal Theater Administration. According to a recent official statement, the prize is intended to open this new field for Austrian composers by encouraging them to produce scores which combine "the best elements of the traditional Viennese Operetta with a story of contemporary interest told in credible dialogue."

EGON SCHIELE'S WORKS TO BE EXHIBITED HERE. A display of works by the Austrian expressionist Egon Schiele will open at the Galerie St. Etienne, 46 West 57th Street, New York, on January 12, 1957.

JEAN MADEIRA SCORES AT VIENNA STATE OPERA.

American singer Jean Madeira, one of the most remarkable newcomers to the Vienna opera stage in recent years, scored another hit in a new production of "Carmen" in which she sung the title role.

KARAJAN BACK IN VIENNA. Having returned from his U.S. tour with the Berlin Philharmonic, Herbert Karajan has resumed his duties at the Vienna Opera. On December 1st and 2nd he also conducted two concerts at the Vienna Musikverein in a program featuring Brahms' Requiem.

KARAJAN INVITES VIRGINIA ZEANI TO VIENNA OPERA.

Herbert Karajan, Director of the Vienna State Opera, has invited the soprano Virginia Zeani to become a member of the Vienna ensemble beginning with next season. Under the terms of the offer, she would make her first appearance in the fall of 1957 and sing with the company for two or three months of each year. The invitation is subject to the condition that she learn a part in the German language, the role under consideration being that of "Madame Butterfly," with which she would open the season in the fall of 1957. Virginia Zeani's Vienna activities would also include appearances as Violetta in Verdi's "La Traviata" and as Desdemona in the same composer's "Otello," both of which roles she would sing in Italian.

AUSTRIAN PAINTER RECEIVES GUGGENHEIM AWARD.

The Austrian painter Herbert Boeckl has received a 1000-dollar Guggenheim award. The prize was given in recognition of a long and distinguished career, through which Boeckl has become a prominent exponent of European contemporary art.

"3-DIMENSIONAL PAINTINGS" IN CONCRETE. The Viennese painter, Anselm Grant, has developed a new technique which promises to be of great practical value as a medium for outdoor art and which he calls "painting in concrete." According to the artist-inventor, its advantages are manifold: it is cheap, it can take almost any punishment, it stands up to almost any climate and its colors, if prepared strictly according to the inventor's formula, do not fade. They are applied with a spatula in gradually deepening layers on the solid concrete. It is claimed that they possess a special luminous quality as well as extraordinary depth -- so much so, in fact, that Anselm Grant refers to his medium as "3-dimensional painting."

LONG-PLAYING RECORDS TO FEATURE GEMS OF AUSTRIAN LITERATURE.

A new series of long-playing records featuring readings of famous selections from Austrian literature by outstanding actors and actresses will go on the market before Christmas. The first recordings will include readings of the following: Anton Wildgans' "Rede ueber Oesterreich" read by Raoul Aslan, Josef Weinheber's

Readers are invited to reprint or quote material from

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"Wien woertlich" and the 12th Canto of Wildgans' "Kirbisch" by Richard Eybner, a selection of the sermons and writings of Abraham a Sancta Clara by Werner Kraus, Rilke's "Cornet" by Fred Liewehr, Kafka and Hofmannsthal short stories by Hans Moog, Ferdinand Saar's "Wiener Elegien" by Alfred Neugebauer, scenes from Grillparzer's "Medea" and Hermann Bahr's essay on Grillparzer by Liselotte Schreiner, sketches of Peter Altenberg and poems of Rilke by Alma Seidler, poems of Franz Werfel and Richard Beer -- Hofmann's commemorative address on Mozart by Albin Skoda as well as Peter Rosegger's "Christtagsgeschichte" by Hans Thimig.

The series will be continued on a regular basis and two new records will be released every month. Production has already begun on long-playing records featuring Fred Hennings (Stifter's "Vom Sankt Stephansturme"), Ewald Balser (Beethoven), Paula Wessely (Maria Theresa) and Hilde Krahl (selections from Karl Kraus). Disks planned for future issue will include Walter Reyer (selections from the minnesingers), Helene Thimig (Reinhardt's "Rede an die Schauspieler" and Hofmannsthal's essay on Salzburg and its Festivals), Hermann Thimig (selections from Raimund) and Hans Jaray (selections from Stefan Zweig).

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 64th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE LEHIGH 5-4120

